

I am a United States of America shredded flag.
 I fly from the roof of many typical American homes.
 Some time ago, I was new and radiant when they placed me there,
 But the wind and rain have reduced me to strings of red, white, and blue.
 Sometimes I fly from vehicles until I am torn to shreds;
 Though I still wave proudly, and can be recognized, I need replaced,
 And here's why:
 Brave military have carried me into battles in many wars
 To save and preserve our nation, and restore peace.
 I fly proudly above our military bases and naval vessels
 To show that we are, yet today, a nation of strength and honor.
 Our Veterans, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard
 Still honor me, care for me, protect me, and rescue me when torn;
 With them, I am in good hands.
 When they see that I am weathering from the elements,
 They take me down and honorably, ceremonially give me final rest,
 And as a service to those citizens who do not seem to know, or do the same,
 They do it for them, with great respect and understanding.
 I am called "Old Glory", "The Star Spangled Banner", and other respected names,
 Which make me flow and flutter proudly in the wind,
 For I am the true vision of our great nation.
 I represent a people who have achieved their freedom;
 I remind a people of the sacrifices that we have made to keep it;
 I go off to war with the greatest warriors, many who die defending it;
 And I grieve when draped over their coffins when they are returned.
 I am placed into the hands of their greatest loved ones
 To honor them and remember them forevermore.
 Those who dishonor me, stomp on me, and burn me, only destroy my cloth.
 My meaning, my purpose, my honor and representation still live on;
 These cannot be taken away so long as there remains a United States of America.
 So, fellow citizens, protect what I stand for, not for me, but for you;
 For I am merely dye on cloth with a God blessed meaning.
 Honor me; respect me for what I represent,
 And I will fly over you wherever, and forever.
 I am the "Stars and Stripes Forever".

Written by Paul Frederick Dudley, Colonel, USAF (Ret) USMC (WWII) USAF (Vietnam) March 6, 2011.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEVEN A. LOOMIS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dr. Steven A. Loomis of Littleton, Colorado. Dr. Loomis will soon be elected the 93rd president of the American Optometric Association (AOA) during their 118th annual meeting on June 27, 2015, in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Loomis is a graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry and owns Mountain Vista EyeCare and Dry Eye Center in Littleton, Colorado. He was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and elected President-Elect at the 117th Annual AOA Congress & 44th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting in June 2014. Dr. Loomis has continuously proven to be a leader in his profession at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to his duties as President-Elect, Dr. Loomis is chair of the AOA Building Committee and serves as a member of the AOA Agenda, Executive, and Personnel Committees.

Dr. Loomis' enthusiasm for optometry and commitment to excellence in eye and vision care has earned him this prestigious national office. I take great pride representing Dr. Loomis in Colorado's Sixth Congressional District and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA and I wish him the very best of luck.

MAYOR KURT D. DYKSTRA

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Kurt D. Dykstra and his commendable service to the City of Holland as its 40th Mayor.

Mayor Dykstra was the first of his family to attend college, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Northwestern College, in Orange City, Iowa, and his Juris Doctor at Marquette University Law School, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating first in class, Summa Cum Laude.

Mayor Dykstra has been a member of the City Council since 2005 and represented Holland's fifth ward until his election to Mayor. As Holland's mayor since 2009, he has provided strong leadership for this thriving and successful lakefront city. Today, Holland is a bright, vibrant city thanks to his vision and leadership.

During his tenure, Holland was named the 2013 winner of Outstanding Achievement in Heritage Preservation, the 2012 winner of Environmental Efforts, named in Forbes list of America's Prettiest Towns, a Top Five Safest Cities in the U.S., and the 3rd Best Place for Families in the U.S.

Mayor Dykstra's record of successful leadership has enabled the City of Holland to continue to be recognized as a place to live, work and play. Under Mayor Dykstra, the city has become a place where businesses are able to grow, strong and safe neighborhoods flourish, and visitors are warmly welcomed. The City of Holland has been well served by his tenure.

I wish Mayor Dykstra the best of luck as he leaves West Michigan to become President of Trinity Christian College.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Kurt Dykstra for his service to the City of Holland.

HONORING THE GLEN MOORE FIRE COMPANY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glen Moore Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of serving and protecting families in Chester County.

Glen Moore's first apparatus was horse-drawn. It was bought for \$100 in 1915 after local residents saw the need for fire protection in the community. Since then, the Company has grown and thrived and the Glen Moore area now benefits from the protection of a highly-trained team of expert officers and members, modern apparatus and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014 alone, the Glen Moore Fire Company responded to more than 300 incidents—one every 29 hours. We are grateful to the fine firefighters of the Glen Moore Fire Company and I wish them another 100 years of success in serving the community.

HONORING COUNCILMAN THOMAS D. MISERENDINO

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Navy and Vietnam veteran Thomas Miserendino of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, who passed away last week, and express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Councilman Miserendino served our country valiantly during the Vietnam War and in his position as Senior Chief of the U.S. Navy. Councilman Miserendino continued his service to the country after his time in the Navy by actively serving his community.

Among his many volunteer services he was a Councilman to the Borough of Beachwood, the longest serving Chief of Beachwood Volunteer Fire Company, Ocean County manager for the NJ Firemen's Home, Secretary of the Beachwood Fire Relief Association, Life member of Ocean County Firemen's Association and past board member for Toms River Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, South Jersey is tremendously grateful for Councilman Thomas Miserendino's service to our nation and its communities. It is my honor to recognize his service and achievements before the United States House of Representatives.

YOUNG AMERICA'S NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the students who will take part in the Young America's National High School Leadership Conference from July 8th to 11th. At this conference, the students will learn leadership